IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for activating an implant within a body, comprising:

an external controller for contacting an exterior surface of a patient's body, the controller comprising a [first acoustic] controller transducer for transmitting [a first] an acoustic control signal into the patient's body, and an energy source for powering the [first acoustic] controller transducer; and

an implant for placement within the patient's body, the implant comprising an electrical circuit configured for performing one or more commands when the implant is activated, an energy storage device, a switch coupled [to] between the electrical circuit and the energy storage device, and [a second] an acoustic implant transducer coupled to the switch, the [second acoustic] implant transducer configured for receiving the [first acoustic] control signal from the [first acoustic] controller transducer, the switch being closed in response to the [first acoustic] control signal to allow current flow from the energy storage device to the electrical circuit, to thereby activate the implant.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the [first acoustic] controller transducer is configured for transmitting first and second [a] acoustic control signals separated by a predetermined delay, and wherein the switch is configured to close only when the [second acoustic] implant transducer receives the first and second [acoustic] control signals separated by the predetermined delay.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, [wherein] the controller further [comprises] comprising a processor for controlling the [first acoustic] controller transducer to transmit one of a first acoustic control signal and a second acoustic control signal, [and] wherein the switch is closed when the first [acoustic] control signal is received by the [second acoustic] implant transducer, and [the switch being] opened when the second [acoustic] control signal is received by the [second acoustic] implant transducer. [for discontinuing current flow from the energy storage device to the electrical circuit.]

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, [wherein] the implant further [comprises] comprising a sensor coupled to the electrical circuit, [and wherein] the one or more commands [comprises] comprising measuring a physiological parameter within the body using the sensor.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the [second acoustic transmitter] implant transducer is configured for transmitting [a second] an acoustic data signal to the controller, the data signal comprising sensor data indicative of the physiological parameter [to the controller], and wherein the [first acoustic] controller transducer is configured for receiving the [second acoustic] data signal from the implant.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the controller further comprises memory for storing the sensor data.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the controller further comprises a processor for extracting the sensor data from the [second acoustic] data signal.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [5,] 7, wherein the controller further comprises an interface for transferring the extracted sensor data to an external electronic device separate from the controller.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a therapeutic device coupled to the electrical circuit, the electrical circuit being configured for controlling the therapeutic device, [in response to the physiological parameter measured by the sensor.]

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the energy storage device comprises a rechargeable device, and wherein the system further comprises an external charger configured for placement against an exterior surface of the patient's body, the charger comprising a source of electrical energy[,] and [a third acoustic] an energy exchange transducer, the energy exchange transducer configured for converting electrical energy from the source of electrical energy into acoustic energy and transmitting [a second] an acoustic energy signal comprising the acoustic energy into the patient's body.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the [second acoustic] implant transducer is further configured for converting the [second] acoustic energy signal into electrical energy for recharging the energy storage device.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising an adhesive for securing the controller to [an] the exterior surface of [a] the patient's body.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is carried by a patch attachable to the exterior surface of the patient's [skin] body.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, [wherein] the implant further [comprises] comprising an actuator coupled to the electrical circuit, [and wherein] the one or more commands [comprises] comprising activating the actuator to control a therapeutic device coupled to the actuator.

15. - 26. Cancelled

27. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with an implant located within a patient's body, the implant comprising an acoustic implant transducer configured for communicating using acoustic telemetry, the method comprising:

[securing] placing a portable communications device in contact with an exterior surface of the patient's body, the communications device comprising one or more acoustic transducers configured for communicating using acoustic telemetry, and an energy [storage device] source for providing electrical energy to operate the communications device; and

[using an acoustic switch to allow electrical energy to flow from the energy storage device to the communications device and the one or more acoustic transducers; and]

communicating with the implant using the one or more acoustic transducers[.] to transmit one or more acoustic signals from the communications device to the implant, wherein upon receiving an acoustic signal, the acoustic implant transducer closes a switch to allow electrical energy to flow from an energy storage device to power the implant.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, [wherein the communicating step comprises transmitting one or more acoustic signals from the communications device into the patient's body,] the one or more acoustic signals comprising a command for controlling operation of the implant.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the command comprises measuring a physiological parameter within the body.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the command comprises controlling a therapeutic device coupled to the implant.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein [the] communicating [step] with the implant comprises receiving one or more acoustic signals from the implant, the one or more acoustic signals comprising data indicative of a physiological parameter measured by the implant.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising extracting data from the one or more acoustic signals received from the implant.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising storing the extracted data in a memory of the communications device.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising transferring the extracted data to an electronic device external to the patient's body.

35. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising charging the energy storage device with an energy source located outside the patient's body.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the energy source comprises a charger that is separate from the communications device.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the communications device comprises a patch carrying the one or more acoustic transducers, and wherein [the securing step] placing the device in contact with the patient's body comprises securing the patch to the exterior surface of the patient's body.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the one or more acoustic transducers are acoustically coupled to the patient's body when the patch is secured to the exterior surface of the patient's body.

39. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the portable communications device is coupled to the exterior surface of the patient's body.

40. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the portable communications device is secured to the exterior surface of the patient's body.

41. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the external controller is adapted to be coupled to the exterior surface of the patient's body.

42. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the external controller is adapted to be secured to the exterior surface of the patient's body.